

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

As the result of the detection of the runaway of the optical disc when the light pickup cannot detect sync signal in the reproducing signal sent from the optical disc, the control circuit turns off the tracking servo  
5 mechanism which controls the tracking of the optical disc by the light pickup. The direction of rotation of the optical disc that is running away is detected by comparing the initial mirror count value obtained by counting for a predetermined period of time the mirror pulse detected in  
10 correspondence with the RF signal based on the reproducing signal, with the mirror count value during braking obtained by counting the mirror pulse for the predetermined period of time when the spindle motor is applied with the brake pulse. The brake signal working in the direction opposite to the detected direction of rotation is applied to the spindle motor so as to stop the rotation of the optical disc.